

*Profusion of Corpses*

From reading your editorial page I get a double pleasure—the pleasure of reading enlightened opinions forcefully expressed, and the rarer pleasure of catching you in a mistake. This morning I felt both when you spelled “corpus delicti” as “corpus *delecti*.”

Thank you, however, for introducing a useful phrase into our current Washington dialogue. We have several corpses around, such as the corpse of our high-minded protective intervention in Santo Domingo, our high-minded and unselfish offer of aid to the Vietnamese people, our high-minded Bay of Pigs invasion, our support of Batista, Sukarno, and sundry other “anti-Communist” leaders, and military cliques.

I wonder if the “corpus delicti” in all these cases is not the same—a too great reliance on the “realistic and pragmatic” advice of the Pentagon, the State Department, and the CIA, which always seems to end with the United States caught trying to bury the body.

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CPYRGHT